an array d. Further, the average value of the G values is substituted for d(k+1) and the average value of the B values is substituted for d(k+2). It should be noted that the method of calculating the average values of the R, G, B values will be described later with reference to the flowchart of Fig. 6.

A3

REMARKS

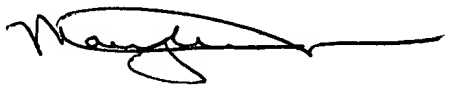
The Specification for the above-identified application has been amended to correct typographical and grammatical errors therein. A marked-up version of the Specification is submitted as "Attachment A - Marked-Up Version of Specification."

Claim is also made to the benefit of 35 U.S.C. § 119 for the filing date of March 29, 2000 for Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-091316. A certified copy of this document is enclosed.

If the Examiner believes that an interview would expedite consideration of this Preliminary Amendment or of the application, a request is made that the Examiner telephone applicants' counsel at (212) 682-9640.

Dated: June 25, 2001

Respectfully submitted,



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ATTACHMENT A - MARKED-UP VERSION OF SPECIFICATION

This is an attachment showing the marked-up version of the Specification.

In the Specification

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 7, line 7 and ending at page 7, line 9 as follows:

-- Fig. 8 is a flowchart useful in describing a procedure for selecting a similar image according to this embodiment; [and] --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 7, line 21 and ending at page 7, line 23 as follows:

-- A preferred [Preferred] embodiment of the present invention will now be described in detail in accordance with the accompanying drawings. --.

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 13, line 11 and ending at page 13, line 19 as follows:

-- Next, at step S54, the average value of the R values of one area (i, j) in an image represented by the image [drawin] drawn at the step S161 is substituted for the kth element d(k) of an array d. Further, the average value of the G values is substituted for d(k+1) and the average value of the B values is substituted for d(k+2). It should be noted that the method of calculating the average values of the R, G, B values will be described later with reference to the flowchart of Fig. 6. --.